

(c) As far as repairs are concerned, urgent repairs have been carried out and the National Highways maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 4 crores has been released so far to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Bridge over Yamuna in Allahabad, U.P.

3486. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been sanctioned for construction of bridge over Yamuna river in district Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work of the said bridge is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sanctioned amount is Rs. 100.36 crores.

(c) and (d) Supplementary feasibility studies have since been carried out. After completion of the detailed design and tendering process, the construction of the bridge is targetted to start in September, 1998.

[English]

Special Grant for Narmada Project

3487. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Union Government had decided to give special grant of Rs. 90 crores to Gujarat Government for Narmada Project;

(b) if so, the reasons that promoted Union Government to sanction special grant;

(c) whether the Gujarat Government has been asked to prepare three years time bound plan to complete the Sardar Sarovar Canal and distribution system up to Mahi; and

(d) if so, the present position of the canal and the distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Union Government has not provided any special grant of Rs. 90 crores to Gujarat for Narmada Project. However, Central loan assistance of Rs. 95 crores has been approved for Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme launched by the Government of India during 1996-97 with a view to expedite the completion of the Project.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the works of Narmada Main Canal for the Reach o to 264 Kilometres are in progress. The Works of distributories in varjous blocks are also in progress.

Standard of Education in MCD Primary Schools

3488. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Cash-strapped MCD for private role in primary education" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 14, 1997; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The said news item speaks of a suggestion for adoption/sponsorship of some Primary Schools functioning under Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) by Corporate Houses, Public Sector Undertakings, etc., in view of lack of adequate funds. The MCD have reported that no decision have been taken in the matter.

Visa for Indian Tourists

3489. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will te Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and United States of America share reciprocal arrangement for issuing visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has switched over to issue passport valid for ten years and twenty five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether US has mooted a proposal for ten years visa for Indian tourists and travellers;

(f) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(g) the time by which this proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.